# UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA GREENVILLE DIVISION

IN RE:	)
	) Case No. 19-01227-5-JNC
CAH ACQUISITION COMPANY 16,	)
LLC, d/b/a HASKELL COUNTY	Chapter 11
COMMUNITY HOSPITAL,	)
	)
Debtor.	)
	)

# TRUSTEE'S OMNIBUS MOTION FOR AUTHORITY TO REJECT PRE-PETITION EXECUTORY CONTRACTS OR UNEXPIRED LEASES

NOW COMES Thomas W. Waldrep, Jr., trustee (the "<u>Trustee</u>") for CAH Acquisition Company 16, LLC d/b/a Haskell County Community Hospital (the "<u>Debtor</u>"), by and through undersigned counsel, and pursuant to Sections 365 and 1107 of Title 11 of the United States Code, 11 U.S.C. §§ 101 *et seq.* (the "<u>Bankruptcy Code</u>"), and Rule 6006 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the "<u>Bankruptcy Rules</u>"), and hereby moves the Court for entry of an order authorizing the Trustee to reject certain pre-petition executory contracts or unexpired leases between the Debtor and the various counterparties detailed in this Motion at Paragraph 13 (the "<u>Executory Contracts</u>," and each individually, an "<u>Executory Contract</u>"). In support thereof, the Trustee respectfully states as follows:

# **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

- 1. This Court has jurisdiction to entertain the Motion pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334. Consideration of the Motion is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2)(A).
  - 2. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409.

3. The statutory predicates for the relief requested herein are Bankruptcy Code Sections 365 and 1107, and Bankruptcy Rule 6006.

## FACTUAL BACKGROUND

# **Procedural Background**

- 4. On March 17, 2019 (the "<u>Petition Date</u>"), the Debtor filed a voluntary petition for relief under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code before this Court.
- 5. On March 18, 2019, the Court entered an Order approving the appointment of the Trustee [Dkt. No. 4]. The Trustee is the duly appointed, qualified, and acting trustee of the Debtor's estate.

## The Sale of the Debtor's Assets

- 6. On November 6, 2019, the Trustee filed the Trustee's Motion for (I) an Order (A) Establishing Bidding Procedures, (B) Approving Form and Manner of Notices, (C) Scheduling Hearing to Consider Final Approval of Sale and Treatment of Executory Contracts and Unexpired Leases, and (D) Granting Related Relief; and (II) an Order (A) Approving Sale Free and Clear of All Liens, Claims, Interests, and Encumbrances, (B) Authorizing Assumption and Assignment of Certain Executory Contracts and Unexpired Leases, and (C) Granting Related Relief (the "Sale Motion") [Dkt. No. 322] seeking the entry of an Order approving the sale of substantially all of the Debtor's assets at a public auction, subject to bidding procedures provided for in the Sale Motion.
- 7. On December 6, 2019, the Trustee filed the *Notice of Executory Contracts and Unexpired Leases Subject to Possible Assumption and Assignment and Proposed Cure Amounts* (the "First Executory Contract Notice") [Dkt. No. 361]. The First Executory Contract Notice was sent to all then-known Executory Contract counterparties, less and except any counterparties to contracts or leases for which the Trustee had already sought and received authority to reject.

- 8. On December 19, 2020, the Trustee held the auction of the Debtor's assets in Charlotte, North Carolina (the "Auction"). At the close of bidding, the Trustee had only received one bid of only \$50,000.00 for the Debtor's assets.
- 9. On January 16, 2020, the Court held the hearing to approve the sale of the Debtor's assets. The Trustee did not seek approval of the sale due to the low value, but a new bidder, Haskell Regional Hospital, Inc. ("HRH"), presented a bid in open court of \$200,000.00 with the estate retaining the Debtor's accounts receivable. The Trustee subsequently sought approval of the sale of the Debtor's assets to HRH.
- 10. As noted in the Order (A) Approving Sale Free and Clear of All Liens, Claims, Interests, and Encumbrances, (B) Authorizing Assumption and Assignment of Certain Executory Contracts and Unexpired Leases, and (C) Granting Related Relief (the "Sale Order") [Dkt. No. 430], the First Executory Contract Notice was premature, as HRH had not yet reviewed nor confirmed its intent to assume or reject any of the Executory Contracts. Additionally, following the filing and service of the First Executory Contract Notice, the Trustee was contacted by additional parties to Executory Contracts omitted from the Debtor's Schedules and Statement of Financial Affairs.
- 11. The Sale of the Debtor's assets to HRH has been delayed, but the Trustee has demanded that the sale close by May 15, 2020.
- 12. Pursuant to the APA attached to the Sale Order, HRH only intended to assume the Debtor's provider agreements, and other contracts to be identified.
- 13. Accordingly, the Trustee submits that the below listed Executory Contracts should be deemed rejected as of the date of this Motion:

Executory Contract Counterparty	Contract Name, If Known, or Subject Matter	Proof of Claim ("POC")  Number or Schedules  Reference
Aetna Inc.	Insurance Provider	POC Nos. 23, 24
	Agreement	
Airgas USA, LLC	Lease of Gas Cylinders	POC No. 7
Beckman Coulter, Inc.	Chemistry and Immunoassay	$N/A^1$
	IDN Master Agreement	
Blue Cross Blue Shield of	Insurance Provider	N/A <sup>2</sup>
Oklahoma	Agreement	
Canon Financial Services,	Lease of Copiers	POC No. 70
Inc.	1	
Farnam Street Financial Inc.	Lease of Cisco, HP,	$N/A^3$
	Quietside, NetApp, and Dell	
	Equipment	
Humana Inc.	Insurance Provider	$N/A^4$
	Agreement	
Preferred CommunityChoice	Insurance Provider	$N/A^5$
PPO, Inc.	Agreement	
The City of Stigler Hospital	Lease of Hospital Building	$N/A^6$
Authority	and Real Property	
United Healthcare	Insurance Provider	$N/A^7$
	Agreement	

14. The above-listed Executory Contracts are the only such contracts or unexpired prepetition agreements known to the Trustee at this time.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Trustee was contacted directly by counsel for Beckman Coulter, Inc. following service of the First Executory Contract Notice.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Referenced as a then-current or former contracted insurance provider on disclosures provided to the Trustee by the Debtor's pre-petition manager, iHealthcare LLC.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Trustee's counsel was notified of this lease after Cohesive Healthcare Management and Consulting LLC, the postpetition manager of this facility, became aware of the Lease.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Referenced as a then-current or former contracted insurance provider on disclosures provided to the Trustee by the Debtor's pre-petition manager, iHealthcare LLC.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Referenced as a then-current or former contracted insurance provider on disclosures provided to the Trustee by the Debtor's pre-petition manager, iHealthcare LLC.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> The Trustee was contacted directly by this Executory Contract counterparty early in the commencement of the Debtor's case and has maintained periodic contact regarding this lease.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Referenced as a then-current or former contracted insurance provider on disclosures provided to the Trustee by the Debtor's pre-petition manager, iHealthcare LLC.

## **RELIEF REQUESTED**

## Authority to Reject the Executory Contracts

- 15. The Trustee seeks authority from this Court, pursuant to Section 365 of the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rule 6006, to reject the Executory Contracts, each an executory contract or unexpired lease, because each Executory Contract (i) is no longer necessary or appropriate in connection with the operation of Debtor's business, (ii) offers no economic value to the Debtor's estate, and (iii) will impede the goal of achieving a successful reorganization.
- 16. Section 365(a) authorizes a trustee or debtor-in-possession to reject any executory contract or unexpired lease, subject to bankruptcy court approval. 11 U.S.C. § 365(a).
- 17. Although Section 365(a) does not provide a standard for determining when rejection is appropriate, bankruptcy courts have traditionally applied the "business judgment standard in determining whether to permit the rejection of any executory contract or unexpired lease." See NLRB v. Bildisco & Bildisco, 465 U.S. 513, 523 (1984); Lubrizol Enters., Inc. v. Richmond Metal Finishes, Inc., 756 F.2d 1043, 1046-47 (4th Circ. 1985); In re Minges, 602 F. 2d 38, 42 (2d Cir. 1979). The decision to reject a lease or executory contract is to be accepted unless it is shown that the debtor's decision was one taken in bad faith or in gross abuse of the debtor's retained business discretion. Lubrizol, supra.
- 18. The purchaser of the Debtor's assets, HRH, has negotiated an APA under which it assumes only certain of the Debtor's contracts. As a result, the Trustee sees no economic benefit to the Debtor's estate or the creditors thereof to assume the Executory Contracts listed in Paragraph 13, and thus, the Executory Contracts must be rejected.

19. For the reasons stated herein, the Trustee has satisfied the business judgment standard in seeking rejection of the Executory Contracts and requests authority from this Court to do so effective as of the date of this Motion.

20. No statements or representation herein shall serve as a stipulation to or admission of the amounts or characterizations of the Executory Contract counterparties' asserted claims against the Debtor's estate, if any. The Trustee reserves all rights with respect to Executory Contract counterparties' claims as asserted and as may be subsequently modified.

**WHEREFORE**, the Trustee respectfully requests that the Court enter an Order:

- 1. Authorizing the Trustee to reject the Executory Contracts, each of which is an executory contract or unexpired lease, by and between the Executory Contract counterparties and the Debtor effective as of the date of this Motion, pursuant to Section 365(a) of the Bankruptcy Code:
- Granting such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.
   Respectfully submitted, this the 8th day of May, 2020.

#### WALDREP LLP

## /s/ Jennifer B. Lyday

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**-** and –

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# UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA **GREENVILLE DIVISION**

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## NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S OMNIBUS MOTION FOR AUTHORITY TO REJECT PRE-PETITION EXECUTORY CONTRACTS OR UNEXPIRED LEASES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Trustee has filed a TRUSTEE'S OMNIBUS REJECT PRE-PETITION EXECUTORY FOR AUTHORITY TO MOTION **CONTRACTS OR UNEXPIRED LEASES** (the "Motion").

FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Motion filed by the Trustee may be allowed provided no responses and request for hearing is made by a party-in-interest in writing to the Clerk, United States Bankruptcy Court, P.O. Box 791, Raleigh, NC 27602, within FOURTEEN (14) DAYS from the date of this notice, and,

FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that any responses to the Motion shall also be mailed to the Trustee at the address given below.

FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, if a response and request for hearing is filed by a party-in-interest in writing within the time indicated, a hearing will be conducted on the Motion and Response thereto at a date, time, and place to be later set by the Court, and all interested parties will be notified accordingly. If no request for hearing is timely filed, the Court may rule on the Motion and any Response thereto ex parte without further notice.

DATE OF NOTICE: May 8th, 2020

#### WALDREP LLP

/s/ Jennifer B. Lyday

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